

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims read as follows:

35. (Original) A self propelling catheter introducer system for exploring a body cavity, comprising:

a flexible tubular catheter having a length extending from a distal end for introduction in the cavity to a proximal end opposite the distal end;

a tubular working channel formed within the catheter, adapted for guiding medical tools along the length of the catheter;

a steering section of the catheter disposed adjacent the distal end, adapted for pointing the distal end in a desired direction, wherein the steering section having a perimeter surface comprises a plurality of rods secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted; and

an everting tube applying a propulsive force to the tubular catheter.

36. (Original) The system according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of rods are a plurality of push-pull wires extending in a direction substantially parallel to the length of the catheter.

37. (Original) The system according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of rods are a plurality of shape memory actuators.

38. (Original) The system according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of rods are a plurality of piezoelectric actuators.

39. (Original) The system according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of rods are a plurality of artificial muscles.

40. (Original) A self propelling catheter introducer system for exploring a body cavity, comprising:

a flexible tubular catheter having a length extending from a distal end for introduction in the cavity to a proximal end opposite the distal end;

a tubular working channel formed within the catheter, adapted for guiding medical tools along the length of the catheter;

a steering section of the catheter disposed adjacent the distal end, wherein the steering section has a perimeter surface and comprises means disposed around the perimeter surface for pointing the distal end in the desired direction; and

an everting tube applying a propulsive force to the tubular catheter.

41. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of rods secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.

42. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of push-pull wires secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.

43. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of bellows secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.

44. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of linear actuators secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.

45. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of shape memory actuators secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.

46. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of piezoelectric actuators secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter, circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.

47. (Original) The system according to claim 40, wherein the means for pointing the distal end comprises a plurality of artificial muscles secured to the distal end of the tubular catheter,

circumferentially disposed around the perimeter surface of the steering section, and adapted to be extended and retracted.